

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1229

By Faulkner

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the memory of Carl Smith of Union County for his contributions to the world of country music.

WHEREAS, Tennessee has long been known throughout the world for its rich musical heritage; from the hills of East Tennessee through Music City U.S.A. to the shores of the Mississippi, the talented musicians of this State have earned a reputation that is unsurpassed in the history of American music; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee takes great pride in the history and contributions of Union County and is grateful for the positive impact the county has on the State's musical heritage; and

WHEREAS, one such exceptional country music singer hailing from Union County was the late Carl Smith, who ranked among the most popular country hit makers of the 1950s; and

WHEREAS, with the death of Mr. Smith in January of this year, the country music world lost one of its finest ambassadors, and his crooning vocals and upbeat arrangements are now sorely missed by country music fans around the globe; and

WHEREAS, one of country music's first television stars, Carl Smith had fifty-eight consecutive Top 40 hits on the Billboard Country Chart from 1951 to 1965, the first twenty-one of which reached the Top 10; and

WHEREAS, born March 15, 1927, in Maynardville, Mr. Smith began singing on the radio as a teenager on a show on Knoxville radio station WROL; and

WHEREAS, it was after nobly serving in the United States Navy from 1945-1947 that Mr. Smith began playing the upright bass in the bands of Mollie O'Day and Skeets Williamson; a

gifted singer, he soon won an audition with Nashville's WSM, which gave him his own radio show in March 1950, when he also began performing on the Grand Ole Opry; and

WHEREAS, by 1950, Carl Smith had signed a contract with Columbia Records and was recording the series of songs that would turn him into a country music legend; and

WHEREAS, after his marriage to June Carter, Mr. Smith left the Grand Ole Opry in 1956, starring in a touring revue sponsored by Philip Morris; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, Mr. Smith retired to become a gentleman horse breeder; in recognition of his remarkable career, during which he had at least one single on the charts every year from 1951 to 1973, he was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Goldie Hill, to whom he was married from 1957 until her death in 2005; he was the proud father of two sons, Carl, Jr., and Dean, and two daughters, Lori Lynn Smith and Carlene Carter, and was a doting grandfather and great-grandfather; and

WHEREAS, Carl Smith epitomized the creative spirit and commitment to this State's cultural heritage, and he truly served as an exemplary Ambassador for Union County; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize the late Carl Smith upon his legendary career in country music, reflecting fondly upon his myriad contributions to the musical heritage of this State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.